

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1848.

All those who hold the Constitution of the United States to be something better than a nose of wax, to be twisted into any shape that suits the ambition or the wilfulness of the individual filling for the time the Presidential office, will be glad to learn, from the Proceedings of the House of Representatives on Monday, (published in to-day's paper,) that the usurpations of Legislative power by the Executive, during the Mexican war, are not to be passed over in unbroken silence by the present Congress. The Resolution adopted by the House, on the motion of Mr. BORTS, calling upon the President for the grounds of his conduct in this particular, is at least an assertion of the right of the House of Representatives, the Grand Inquest of the Nation, to hold him to account for it. If nothing more serious should grow out of it than the demand itself, it will stand upon record as a protest against dumb acquiescence in the grossest infractions of the Constitution ever yet attempted by the Executive of the United States. Such, we have reason to think, is the view taken of the President's "Orders in Council," not by Whigs alone, but by eminent jurists of the Administration party itself.

THE CIVIL DISSENSION IN OHIO.

Our readers will have learned, from the notices which have been given in these columns, that the persons chosen, or claiming to be chosen, by the people of the several counties and districts in the State of Ohio to compose the Legislature of that State, arriving at the Seat of Government to hold their annual session, have, after being many days together, instead of organizing themselves into deliberative bodies according to the requirements of the Constitution, been able to agree on nothing but to disagree most obstinately and pertinaciously. Our latest accounts, by the Telegraph line, left them in a state of confusion worse and worse confounded; and the probability now seems to be, that they will disperse to their several homes without effecting an organization of the Legislature.

Into the merits of this dissension it is hardly worth while for us here to enter. It is enough that it exists, to make it a subject of deprecation by all the lovers of law and order. But, happily, it is in no sense what it is sometimes termed, a Revolution, nor even a rebellion. The People of the State have no concern in it at present but as spectators of an idle contest between their servants, among whom they will not fail to find out who is to blame, and to rebuke them accordingly. Nor will any serious evil ensue, should the Legislature altogether fail to be organized. The Government of Ohio will not be dissolved, or even shaken, by it. The affairs of the State, under its Executive officers, will go on quietly as usual. The consequence, as we understand it, will simply be the intermission of a legislative session for the current year; a circumstance perhaps to be desired rather than regretted, after the ill-temper and excitement into which the representatives of the opposite parties in the State have wrought themselves.

Before the time comes for the Legislature again to assemble, a new election will have been held throughout the State, and the People will have settled the question of who is right and who is wrong in this controversy much more effectively and satisfactorily than it could have been settled had powder and balls been resorted to, as would probably have been the case in any Government differently constituted from ours, instead of the ballot-box.

THE CHINESE DIFFICULTY.—We gave such accounts of the disagreement between Mr. DAVIS and the Chinese Imperial Commissioner as reached us by the steamer Canada, and we do not perceive that any others have been brought by the Niagara. The Editor of the New York Commercial Advertiser mentions that he has seen a letter on the subject, in which a belief is expressed that the difficulty would be adjusted to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

There was an unusual attendance of spectators at the Supreme Court yesterday, drawn together by the intelligence that Mr. WEBSTER would deliver an argument in the case of *Norris vs. City of Boston*. J. PRESCOTT HALL and Mr. WEBSTER are for the plaintiffs in error, and Messrs. ASHMEY and DAVIS, of Massachusetts, for defendant. The question involved in this case is the constitutionality of a law of Massachusetts authorizing a tax of two dollars per head on every alien passenger arriving within any of its ports or harbors, to be levied on the master of the vessel or owners or consignees. Mr. WEBSTER spoke for about two hours, and was listened to with earnest attention.

We are gratified to learn that the Hon. GEORGE E. BADGER was yesterday re-elected, by the Legislature of North Carolina, a United States Senator from that State for six years from the 4th of March next, when his present term of service will expire.

The Hon. A. P. BUTLER was on Thursday last re-elected a Senator of the United States from the State of South Carolina, for six years from the 4th of March next, when his present term will expire.

The Hon. W. B. SEABROOK entered upon his duties as Governor of the State on the same day.

INDIANA SENATOR.—We have already mentioned the fact of Governor WHITCOMB's election to the United States Senate by the Legislature of Indiana. We learn from the Indianapolis Journal that the election was made on a first ballot, as follows:

James Whitcomb (Dem.).....75
Edward A. Hannegan (Dem.).....15
Caleb B. Smith (Whig).....63
Scattering.....5

It appears that the election turned on the question of excluding slavery from the new Territories. The candidates being interrogated on this point, Mr. HANNEGAN declined to give a positive pledge favoring such a policy, while Governor WHITCOMB did not hesitate to give an unequivocal pledge.

Several ballottings for a United States Senator were had by the Legislature of Florida on the 11th instant. No choice being made, the election was postponed to a future day. The names of the gentlemen voted for are, SAMUEL L. BURNETT, who received 26 votes, GEORGE T. WOOD 16 votes, JESSE J. FINLEY 7 votes, JACKSON MORTON 6 votes, and blanks 2. This was the state of the first ballot. The succeeding ballots did not materially vary from it.

MORE AMERICAN WINE.—A New Orleans paper mentions some excellent wine from the produce of two prosperous vineyards near Natchez, Mississippi. A third vineyard has recently been commenced at the same locality. The wine has the flavor of hock, muscat, and champagne combined, but does not effervesce.

INDIANA STATE DEBT.

The State debt of INDIANA is rapidly getting into a shape which will be entirely manageable, and will place Indiana among the solvent States. An arrangement was made with her foreign creditors by which she was relieved from one-half her debt. The general principle of this arrangement was that her foreign bondholders should surrender their bonds, and in return receive (for one-half of them) the Wabash and Erie canal, and finish it to Evansville. For the other half the State was to issue new bonds at five per cent. This arrangement has been almost entirely consummated. The Wabash canal is in the course of rapid completion. The Auditor reports that—

The Public debt of the State on the 1st of July, 1847, was.....\$11,048,000
The amount of bonds surrendered, up to July 1, 1848, is.....9,158,000

Leaving, as above, still outstanding.....1,890,000

One-half of the surrendered bonds (\$4,570,000) has been re-issued in new five per cent bonds. An equal amount is struck off the State debt, as being an equivalent to the value of the Wabash and Erie canal.

Upon the whole, the affairs of Indiana are in a very prosperous condition. The great canal from Lake Erie to the Ohio will soon be completed, and the credit of the State fully restored.—*Cin. Atlas.*

THE WHIG STATE CONVENTION OF CONNECTICUT, which met at Hartford on Wednesday last for the purpose of selecting candidates for State officers to be voted for at the ensuing spring election, nominated the Hon. JOSEPH TRUMBULL for the station of Governor (an excellent nomination) and the Hon. THOMAS B. BACKUS for Lieutenant Governor.

The Convention was largely attended, and the Delegates in attendance gave very flattering accounts of the prospects of the Whig party in their respective towns and counties.

TEXAS ELECTIONAL ELECTION.—A letter from Austin, dated the 27th ultimo, gives the following as the result of the election in fifty-six counties which have been heard from: Cass 8,795, Taylor 3,777; majority for Cass 5,018. There are twenty-three counties more to hear from, among which are those on the Rio Grande, and also the county of Santa Fe, from which last no returns can be expected. Returns received after the 27th ultimo would be invalid, and would not be received.

FLORIDA.—The official canvass of the vote for Presidential Electors in Florida shows a majority of 1,301 for the TAYLOR and FILLMORE ticket. The aggregate vote is 7,777; of which Gen. TAYLOR received 4,539, Gen. CASS 3,238, and 19 scattering.

Hon. THOMAS S. DREW, Governor of Arkansas, has transmitted to the Legislature his resignation of that office, upon the duties of which he very recently entered. The reasons for this step the Governor states to be entirely of a private nature. The resignation is to take effect on the last day of the session of the Legislature.

Brevet Major General PERCIVAL F. SMITH arrived in New Orleans on the 9th instant. He was to leave for his command upon the Pacific in the steamer Falcon, for Chagres.

CALIFORNIA ADVENTURERS.

The "stream of human life" is now setting as irresistibly towards California as Dr. JOHNSON describes its current through Fleet street, in London. We are not absurd enough to think of arresting this current; but a few suggestions in relation to the route and its embarrassments may not be wholly unprofitable.

The gold attraction is so strong that few are willing to lose the time necessary to go by water round the cape or by the overland route. Thousands rush impulsively to Chagres for the purpose of getting "across loins" to Panama, forgetting that they are then more than three thousand miles from their El Dorado.

The voyage to Chagres, over two thousand miles, is usually a pleasant one. But Chagres is a town with few inhabitants, no accommodations for strangers, and wretched facilities for travellers. There is little or no variation of the thermometer, and its climate for strangers is as bad as misma and fever can make it.

Unless the facilities for taking passengers from Panama to San Francisco should be greatly increased, thousands will be necessarily left there for months, in a situation which can as easily be imagined as described.—*Albany Evening Journal.*

GOLD.

Admitting all that has been reported of the gold region of California to be true to the utmost, all sober-minded men must nevertheless regard it, in a national view, as rather a misfortune than a source of congratulation. Visions of golden sands and precious masses are filling, and it may be said fevering the minds of thousands, and if the epidemic continues we may expect to find them soon abandoning the plough and the work-bench, the fundamental sources of a nation's prosperity, for that wealth which "perishes in the using." As far as our experience of history runs, no nation which abounded in gold was ever distinguished for one solitary characteristic of true greatness, or of that which is more estimable, true happiness. There are some axioms connected with this subject, of which the following are worthy of consideration:

The desire for sudden wealth is always morally injurious, and operates as an efficient check to ordinary industry.

Great wealth, suddenly acquired, is seldom beneficial to the possessors or their children.

The plough and spade, employed in agriculture, are the surest and most effectual gold diggers.

All history, as well as gospel, informs us that the best form of human happiness is to be found in moderate desires, in industry and virtuous habits, in the fear of God, and in the disposition which induces us to lay up our treasures in heaven, and not on earth.—*Norfolk Herald.*

A gentleman whom the dazzling prospect early induced to start for the gold diggings, by the Chagres route, has just returned, after getting as far as Panama, finding there two thousand persons entitled to precedence in the vessels from thence; and it is computed there are six thousand there now eager for a chance to San Francisco.

VIRGINIA, FR. CALIFORNIA.—The Richmond Whig has been shown fourteen bars of gold from the Booker mine, weighing 2,482 dwts. They are the product of two months' work, with twelve hands. The value is \$2,408 54, or a little more than \$200 to the hand.

FINANCES OF VIRGINIA.—It appears from the report of the Finance Committee of the Virginia Legislature that the actual debt of the State is \$6,903,891.30. The State is liable for guaranteed bonds for different works to the amount of \$6,031,739.76. Of the amount of the State's indebtedness, \$245,000 of 5 per cent. stock will be due January 1, 1850; and \$600,000 more, that may now be redeemed, will have to be paid within the next ten years. The committee recommends as sufficient the payment annually of \$75,000, commencing now. The balance in the State Treasury on the 1st of October next is estimated at \$131,923.68.

An English nobleman came down in a steamboat from St. Louis to New Orleans last week, having with him a number of animals, birds, &c., obtained in an excursion of some months among the wilds of the West. He had four fine buffaloes, one with calf, and the largest cow buffalo ever seen. He intends stocking his park with these. He had also a beautiful antelope, obtained from a naval officer, with a fine bear. He showed a large collection of our prairie birds, &c., preserved in a fine state by his naturalist.

THE ELECTROTYPE DEPARTMENT OF THE COAST SURVEY.

The following facts were gathered together by the writer while examining that department of the Coast Survey where are drawn, engraved, and printed the beautiful charts and maps of that scientific bureau:

The electrotype process was invented almost simultaneously in Great Britain and Russia in the year 1838; the palm of precedence, however, is generally awarded, we believe, to a German named JACOTT, while in the employ of the Emperor of Russia, and the idea is said to have been suggested to his mind by the accidental dropping of a copper coin into a solution of copper and zinc when under the influence of a galvanic battery. The coin was greatly enlarged, and when the two masses were finally separated, by way of experiment, it was discovered that a counterpart impression of the coin was made upon the outside coating. The process alluded to was first applied to the copying of small objects in relief, such as coins and medals. The coin or medal to be copied (or a cast from it in metal) was soldered to a wire forming the negative pole of a galvanic battery; a piece of copper of similar dimensions was then attached to the positive pole, and placed opposite to the cast of the medal, and at a moderate distance. The battery being set in operation, the copper of the plate at the positive pole was dissolved and transferred to the negative pole, where it was deposited on the surface of the medal, conforming with the utmost minuteness to every cavity or elevation. Separating the electrotype deposit from the mould, a relief was produced corresponding to an intaglio, and an intaglio to a cameo or relief.

It was soon seen that this electrotype process might be applied with great advantage to the copying of engravings, including those of maps and charts, but the difficulty was to prevent the adhesion of the electrotype plate to the surface of the original, thus destroying the prints of the engraver.

A copper plate yields a very limited number of impressions before the wear of the surface destroys the sharpness of the engraved lines, or defects in the plate render the whole surface "blurred." Engraving on steel is a very expensive process, owing to the slow progress made by the graver in the hard and tenacious material, and the cost of plates of steel increases rapidly into this size, to which a limit is set below that which is necessary for large maps. It is of course a great advantage to retain the soft and easily worked copper as the material to engrave upon, and yet to be able to multiply the number of copies from the same engraved plate indefinitely.

This is effected through the electrotype process. A plate in relief is obtained by depositing on the surface of the engraved copper plate, and from this relief any number of copies may be made, which are perfect facsimiles of the original engraved plate. So perfect that mere scratches into the burr under one plate are repeated on the other, and the very finest engraved lines sharply copied. There is more difference between two impressions taken from the same plate, from difference in wiping off the ink and other accidental variations in printing, than between an impression taken from an original plate, and its electrotype copy under like circumstances of printing.

This process has been applied to the maps and charts of the Coast Survey since 1846. One of the engravers in the office, Mr. Selmar Siebert, has under the immediate direction of the Superintendent (Prof. BACKUS) completely mastered the process, and it is now applied to all the maps and charts engraved, so that the originals are preserved in most cases without injury from printing. The process may be regulated so as to produce metal of different degrees of toughness and hardness, and so as to make the deposit slowly or rapidly as the fine parts of the plates are to be copied, or the plates are merely to be increased in thickness to give the requisite stiffness. Blank plates for engraving upon are also made by this process.

At first the adhesion of the plates was prevented by a slight silverying of the surface, so thin as not to interfere with the perfection of the copy, and yet preventing the close contact of the copper surface necessary to their firm adhesion. Now, a slight oxidation of the surface is effected by a process first used in the copy of the ordnance maps of Great Britain, which answers the same purpose. This electrotyping, as thus applied, is a new and important branch of art, the minute circumstances which influence the results requiring close study and intelligent experience to secure an effective control of the process. In no case has a plate been lost in the coast survey process by adhesion.

With regard to the size of the plates executed in the office of the Coast Survey, it may be stated that they vary from eighteen to thirty-eight inches in length, and fourteen to thirty-four in width, though an occasional plate of smaller dimensions is executed. The time employed in producing the original engravings varies from six to twenty months, and nine or ten engravers are employed in the Coast Survey at the present time. To describe the maps and charts which are drawn, engraved, and printed by the Coast Survey would be a superfluous task, as they are reputed to be the most beautiful and the most accurate which have ever yet been executed in this or any other country.

THE RUMOR OF THE MURDER OF REV. DANIEL BAKER, an esteemed Presbyterian Missionary in Texas, is contradicted, letters having been received from him at Princeton, (New Jersey,) stating his escape from the perils to which he was exposed among the Indians, and his safe return to Victoria.

REPORTED CHOLERA IN NEW ORLEANS.—A despatch from New Orleans, dated December 17, states that the cholera has broken out in that city. There were five deaths from the disease after a few hours sickness on the 16th. The people are much alarmed. The physicians have some controversy as to whether the disease is the real Asiatic cholera.

The steamship Falcon left New Orleans on the 17th inst. with a large number of passengers for Chagres, bound for California.

FROM MEXICO.

An arrival at New Orleans brings dates from Mexico to the 25th ultimo. On the 21st the Spanish Minister was to have presented his credentials, and on the previous day the French Minister had called to congratulate President HERRERA on his election to that office. Robberies were more frequent and daring than ever before, and in one instance General BUSTAMANTE was obliged to send a military force to drive the robbers off. On the 13th, Gen. URUJA had a skirmish with a body of Indians in the State of Guanajuato, and three of the savages were killed, a number wounded, and more than seventy made prisoners. The outrages by the Indians have been very numerous. The national guard of Tampico have held a public meeting to repel and deny the imputation that they wish to withdraw the department of Tampico from the Mexican Union. Gen. PAREDES, it is asserted, is still in Mexico, and somewhere in the State of Puebla. The Mexican Commissioners, to run the boundary line between Mexico and this country, according to the late treaty, are Senors D. PEDRO GARCIA CONDE and the young ROBLES.

VENEZUELA.

The latest advices from this country, received by the way of St. Thomas, confirm the news of the entrance of Paez's troops into Maracaibo, and announce that in Apure, Carabobo, and Guaira, the inhabitants had revolted against the Government in his favor. They had not, however, been able to do much for want of arms and ammunition. A passenger, fourteen days from Laguayra, states that the situation of Venezuela is most deplorable. The partisans of PAEZ are ardent in his cause, while MORALES and his friends are undiminished, possessing all the resources of the Government. Both parties have mutually sworn to exterminate their adversaries; and in the pursuit of their insane and vindictive projects, they will go far, according to the testimony of those who know the men, to destroy their native country.—*N. O. Delta.*

FROM THE COAST OF AFRICA.

The brig Almira, arrived at Boston, from Port Praya, October 25th, Gambia November 17th, reports that the United States brig *Porpoise* and *Bainbridge* arrived on the 10th October from a cruise and sailed for Port Grande. The United States ships *Jamestown* and *Portsmouth* were at Port Grande, from Madeira, all week. The United States brig *Porpoise* arrived again October 30th, with the United States Naval Storekeeper, and sailed to cruise on the coast.

The New Orleans papers of the 11th instant announce the death of J. LINDSAY, an eminent and influential merchant of that city.

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

We have been favored with the following extracts from letters from Capt. Spring, commanding the ship *Huntress*, at San Francisco, directed to her owners in this city:

SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 21, 1848.

I arrived at Monterey on the morning of the 10th instant, exactly 144 days from New York.

On my arrival I found such a state of things existing as it is not easy to describe. The town (if such it may be called) I found entirely deserted. There were not ten men, and about twice that number of women, left in the place. This was in consequence of the discovery of extensive gold mines on the banks of the river Sacramento, about 24 hours run up the river, where I am now lying. Almost before I had heard of the news myself my crew had got hold of it, and six of them were off. I found there were no facilities whatever for receiving or landing my cargo at Monterey, and being sure I could not be in a worse predicament here than there, I disembarked the troops, and agreed with Gov. Mason to proceed to this place.

On my arrival here, I found very much the same state of things as at Monterey. All the vessels in the harbor were deserted by their crews, in many instances by their officers, and in some by their masters. The facility with which any individual may, with only ordinary industry, pick up, either in what are called the "dry" or the "wet diggings," \$2,000 or \$3,000 worth of pure gold, in one month, is too much temptation for most men.

I have not yet begun to discharge. The only lighter to be had here, suitable for taking out my cargo, belongs to the Government, and she is out of repair. The quartermaster has been hard at work since I have been in, getting her upon the beach. He has employed several house carpenters who came here from Oahu to go to the mines, at \$8 to \$10 per day to do this work.

Nominally, the price of day labor is \$5 to \$6, but no men are to be obtained, other than Indians or miserable worn out men, who cannot go, or else have been to the mines, and returned sick. Fifty dollars per month are paid for men to go very short distances about the same dry diggings, (if they are for the most part disabled veterans, and a more miserable set cannot be found elsewhere in an hospital. No men can be obtained at any price to work out of the usual hours. The more they are paid, the less willing are they to work. Twenty-five cents for a glass for grog, and \$1 per meal, are the prices paid here. Gold is selling plenty, every description of goods is consequently high, \$30 to \$50 per pair for blankets, such as cost \$4 in New York; \$5 a pair for shoes, and every thing pro rata. The charter of a small craft, (formerly a long boat) decked, is \$50 per day. The launch of the Peacock, lost on the bar of the Columbia some years since, arrived here yesterday, and was sold before night for \$2,500 in good condition, and the same day, at \$16 per ounce. Another which came in from the same dry diggings, was sold for \$1,000. This was sold for \$4,000. They ask me \$6 to \$20 per dozen for washing. If I could only supply the place of my clothes by the purchase of new at New York prices, I would throw them overboard instead of having them washed.

I left the ship *Isak Walton*, only two years old, at Monterey, without a man on board. No one of our men-of-war is in the harbor, and the same day, as they would lose their crews if they did so. At present common property is safe enough, lying anywhere unwatched: it is too small game to be taken any notice of. There is now some danger in returning from the mines, as there are those who prefer to take the gold already washed to their hands, than dig and wash for themselves. The most extravagant stories are told of gold found, and the owners of the same dry diggings, I have myself seen pieces weighing one, two, and three ounces, and in one instance a lump perfectly pure weighing more than ten ounces. It is said (my informant is Governor Mason, who has been on the ground) that parties are digging many miles apart with equal success, and that for hundreds and hundreds of miles all the precious metals are found in great abundance.

When I asked him how much I might believe of the many apparently exaggerated stories that are told respecting the mines, he replied, you may credit almost any thing you hear. Gold is sold here now at \$10 the ounce; generally it has been selling at \$8 the ounce. Indeed, I have seen a great deal purchased from the common people at the latter price. Can you wonder, therefore, that the common sailor overlooks his obligations under such circumstances?

I am told from good authority that the custom of those who sell liquor at the mines by glass is, to take from the little bag which the customer holds open, a pinch (as of snuff) for one glass of bad, watered whiskey. I tried the experiment, and found I could easily take up \$4 worth of drink, at the rate of \$16 per ounce. Those who have a large lump, and understand the business, can easily get up eight, ten, and twelve in the same way. A day or two since, a gentleman with whom I am very well acquainted, from the Sandwich Islands, wanted a man to take his trunk from the beach to his lodgings, and seeing an idle, half-cad, negro, apparently a runaway from some vessel, he asked him if he would like the job. The fellow sat at him an indignant glance, and turned away from him without deigning to reply. He sat up at him for some time, five steps, he turned round and approached us, drawing from his bosom a small bag of dust, and said, "Do you think I'll lug trunks when I'll get that much in one day?" He had more than \$100.

Since I commenced this, I have seen an intelligent gentleman from Hartford, Connecticut, who has just come down here from the West, and has been for this place two months, and although a man of delicate constitution, (he came out for his health,) the net proceeds of his expedition amounted to \$1,500. He gives me a vivid picture of the existing state of affairs up in the gold region. He thinks more than two millions of dollars worth of gold has been collected there this season, and that it may be safely said the mines are inexhaustible.

As you would suppose, vice of every kind and in the most horrible forms prevails here. The runaway sailors work a while and collect a quantity of dust, which they spend with the same recklessness that they do so much silver at home. They pay seven or eight dollars per bottle for liquor, have a "spree," from which they come out destitute, and then begin again. A great deal of sickness prevails, and as one after another desquints, they are left up to the utmost indifference, without even a covering of earth. There has not, as far as I can learn, been any quarrelling among the diggers. There is no such room for all to operate that there seems no necessity for any disturbance.

What will be the result of all this I cannot have any idea. I shall improve every opportunity to inform you how I am getting along. I have seen the last man who has been here long, lying near me, hoist his chest out alone and scull to shore, abandoning the craft to her fate—the captain and mates and all the others having gone before.

FROM THE NEW YORK COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

But there is a letter, with which we have been favored, that takes a more temperate and rational view of the matter, and may be read with profit, we suspect, by some of those who are eager to rush into the gold adventure:

"It affords me pleasure to give any of my friends who desire it all the information I can in regard to California; and, when plain direct questions are asked, I will endeavor to give plain answers; but I really cannot take the responsibility of advising any one to go or not to go. I have no hesitation in saying that many will be greatly disappointed. It seems the impression has gone forth that gold can be obtained in California with very little labor—it is not so. Yet there is gold there beyond all question, and those who are willing to dig will at least receive a fair remuneration for their labor, perhaps for many years to come. The result of this state of things will undoubtedly keep the price of labor very high, and mechanics of every description may find employment in California at what would be considered here great wages. But the quantity of mechanics already gone and going there seems to be out of all proportion. It seems to me—and I find I am not alone in this—that there has already been merchandise enough shipped from the United States to overstock the country for a long time. I am sure that a great many young men are going who know but little about work. To all of this class I say, I think it would be well for them to 'look before they leap.'"

"To all who are willing to submit to the hardships of such a life, and are able and willing to labor with their own hands, and can make up their minds to make California their future home, there is no present country that can hold out such inducements for emigration."

FROM THE BOSTON JOURNAL.

The following is an extract from a letter to a commercial house in this city, dated at San Francisco, October 8:

"Since my last, the first, second, and third mates have run away, and the first mate has been, except the seaman and two boys. To enable us to leave this port I have been obliged to ship 'Knakes' at \$75 per month, with the promise that we will return here in December. We have now on board the captain, one mate, cook, and nine working men and boys, and the barque will sail for Monterey on the 11th instant."

There are seventeen vessels in port, nine of which (including the ships *Huntress* and *Rhoda*) are laid up for want of crews to navigate them.

"Gold continues to be found in great abundance, and the excitement continues in all its force. Vessels and people are daily flocking here from all parts of the Pacific."

RHYMES OF THE GOLD DIGGERS.

FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIAN OF OCTOBER 7.

[The rhymes which follow, aside from their merit, prove the truly gratifying fact that in these gold-digging times somebody besides the editor finds time to scribble.]

SONG OF THE SPADE.

A Parody on Hood's "Song of the Shirt."

Dig—dig—dig—
To pierce for the golden ore;
Dig—dig—dig—
Till you sweat at every pore.
Dig—dig—dig—
To root in the deep black sand,
And this to be a citizen
Of a free and a christian land!
And its soil to be a slave
To the heathen and the Turk,
To rid the hands of a christian man
From such dirty and tiresome work.

Work—work—work—
Till the back is almost broke;
Work—work—work—
With your legs and your thighs in soak.
Work—work—work—
Revolving an old tin pan,
And warbling about with a shake and a splash,
Till you doubt you're a christian man!
Soul and body and mind,
Mind and body and soul,
Oh! can't be right when they're all confined
To the basin and the bowl.

Pile—pile—pile—
When it's only a little heap;
Pile—pile—pile—
Till it's "graderly" grows more deep.
Pile—pile—pile—
And stow it away in a bag.
Till you gaze with eyes of wild surprise
On the contents of that bag!
Oh! can it be held I stand?
And can it be gold I see?
Ho! ho! I'm off for a christian land,
To spend it so merrily!

RODERICK DHU.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

FROM THE BOSTON ATLAS.

Messrs. EDITORS: I have read with care and attention your article on the protective system, and I am satisfied that the popular idea entertained among us, that protective duties are for the benefit of the rich, is a fallacy. I am satisfied that your reasoning is correct, and that labor reaps all the benefit; but, then, it is the labor of New England alone, as it seems to me. I don't see how the Western States are benefited by the system. We, very naturally, want as many yards of cloth for our dollar as we can get, and I have a notion that we can obtain a greater number from England than from New England, and therefore that free trade is the best system for our interest. Still, I should be glad to see the old States prosper; and, as protection seems necessary to that end, I shall not object to it, if you can show me only that I shall not lose by it. I raise corn, wheat, and pork; therefore, so far as eating goes, I am independent. Having a surplus of these articles, I wish to turn that surplus into money, and so find the means to supply all my other wants; but you see it is a great object with me to make my money go as far as possible.

A WESTERN FARMER.

REMARKS BY THE ATLAS.

We are obliged to "A Western Farmer" for indicating the difficulties which lie in his way, and will endeavor to remove them. It was our intention at some time to go over this ground, and we may as well do it now.

He wants to get all the money he can for his surplus productions, which is not only natural, but right; and then he wants to get all he can for his money, and that again is right. He thinks that he can best accomplish his desires by the free-trade system, because England will give him more cloth for a dollar than we can. We think he can gain his end only by the protective system, because we say it is only under that system that he can get his dollar to start with, and without the dollar it is a matter of indifference to him who sells cloth cheap, for he would not be in the market as a purchaser.

The first thing, then, for the Western farmer to do is, to find a purchaser for his surplus, and his first question, Where is my customer? For an answer to this question, let him examine the following statistics:

In 1844—we take that year for two reasons: 1. There was no famine anywhere, and the operations represent the current of trade under ordinary circumstances; and 2. We happen to have the documents on hand—our exports from all the States to all Europe of flour, corn, and pork were as follows, viz:

(11,103 barrels flour.....\$810,556
85,303 bushels corn.....44,428
11,788 barrels pork.....117,880

972,864